



# Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center

## Mission update



Program managers have selected April 24 as the target launch date for STS-101. The launch is scheduled to occur at approximately 4:15 p.m. The planned landing time for the mission is May 4 at about 11 a.m.

The launch date reflects a one-week change from a previous target date, allowing Mission Commander Jim Halsell to complete planned training activities. Those activities were delayed because of an ankle injury Halsell sustained during training on March 15.

Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test activities were scheduled for April 6-7 at KSC.

STS-101 is the third mission to the International Space Station. Atlantis will carry a seven-person crew on the 98th Shuttle launch.

Meanwhile, program managers have set target launch dates for several subsequent missions. The schedule is as follows:

- STS-106: Aug. 19 at 4:57 p.m.
- STS-92: Sept. 21 at 8:17 p.m.
- STS-97: Nov. 30 at 4:30 a.m.
- STS-98: Jan. 18, 2001 at 9:27 a.m.
- STS-102: Feb. 15 at 10:10 p.m.
- STS-100: April 19, 2001

## Van riders save cars, more

### Environment also benefits from pools

Spencer Anderson drives 70 miles round trip every weekday to and from his job in the Space Station Processing Facility. But when he arrives home in Indian Harbour Beach each afternoon, the odometer on his 1987 Buick LeSabre is unchanged.

No, Anderson has not been engaging in unscrupulous dashboard manipulations. The Boeing employee serves as the primary driver for a vanpool that carries six other KSC employees from their homes along the beaches to work and back each day.

"If I'm not in the vanpool, I have to drive 35 miles each way,"



Spencer Anderson, a Boeing employee, picks up riders for his vanpool in front of the Headquarters Building on a recent afternoon.

Anderson said. "The gas is one factor, but another factor is the wear and tear on the vehicle. I have to try to save my vehicle because

they've gotten pretty expensive." And if he indirectly helps the

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## Atlantis reaches first stop

The Space Shuttle Atlantis, riding aboard the Mobile Launcher Platform, ascends the ramp to Launch Pad 39A on March 25. The platform, which travels at about 1 mile per hour while carrying an orbiter, tilts to keep the flight assembly in a level position during the climb to the pad. Atlantis will carry a crew of seven on STS-101, a mission dedicated to the maintenance of the International Space Station. Please see more mission-related photos on page 3.

## Vanpools ...

(Continued from Page 1)

environment in the process, that is fine with Anderson. The KSC vanpool program is a rare endeavor that offers individual rewards to those involved while also benefiting society as a whole. As the Center prepares to commemorate Environmental and Energy Awareness Week, the vanpools give employees a chance to lessen the number of cars on the road.

KSC's vanpool program is handled by VPSI, Inc., an international company based in Michigan. Brevard County, using federal funds, owns the vans and provides them to VPSI, which pays for insurance and maintenance. VPSI assigns each van pool a primary driver, who must pass the company's screening process.

The cost to employees is a fixed monthly fee of \$440 per van. With vehicles that hold from seven to 15 passengers, the monthly rate for each rider ranges from about \$31 to about \$73 plus gas costs and tolls. The driver is usually exempt from the monthly charge and is free to make personal use the van after hours and on weekends.

It is up to the participants to set policies on meeting places and times. In the case of Anderson's group, the riders all meet the van at some point along route A1A, although in unpleasant weather the driver picks up or delivers riders at their homes.

George Gaudy, Brevard County manager for VPSI, said there are 22 vanpools at present involving about 225 KSC employees (with another six routes ending at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station). Anyone who lives or works in Brevard County is eligible for the program, and several routes to KSC come from the Orlando and

Daytona Beach areas.

Gaudy said the numbers have remained stable at KSC for the past few years.

"I'm surprised the numbers haven't gone up," Gaudy said. "I thought (they would) with gasoline prices increasing the way they have."

One fairly recent addition to the program is Ruth Singletary, an employee with Comprehensive Health Services, a sub-contractor to Space Gateway Support. Singletary, who lives in Cocoa Beach, joined Anderson's vanpool about a year ago.

"The reason I got in it was my husband and I wanted to get to a one-car family situation," she said. "He's semi-retired and I'm still working. ... You can save money, and you don't put all the mileage on your car. I wish I had done it years back."

Singletary finds many advantages to the vanpool in addition to the financial one. She enjoys being free from battling traffic each morning and afternoon, and as a passenger she has time to do some reading or plan her day. She said some of her fellow passengers catch up on lost sleep during the ride to work.

Another member of the same pool, Priscilla Elfrey of Public Affairs, notes other benefits — including the knowledge pool and connections available from fellow riders. And there is also the ecological factor.

"It's nice to know I'm helping in that effort, even though that was not my main reason for doing it," Singletary said.

Lists of vanpools with available seats run in each week's KSC Bulletin. For more information about joining an existing vanpool or forming a new one, call VPSI at 952-4563.

## Safety contest seeks slogan, logo

In anticipation of KSC's Super Safety and Health Day, ideas are needed to determine a slogan and a logo for this year's event. Prizes will be awarded for first and second places.

Entries must be submitted by April 14, and your name, phone number and mail code must accompany each entry.

Entries must be relevant to the topics of safety and/or health. In the case of similar entries, the earliest entry received will be considered the winner.

Your ideas are needed. Please send your entries by e-mail to David.Board-1@ksc.nasa.gov or through inter-office mail to David Board, mail code NN-G.

## Dynamac's work at KSC results in national award

Dynamac Corporation has received national recognition for its work at KSC. The United States Small Business Administration (SBA) has selected Dynamac as the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region III.

Dynamac, based in Rockville, Md., has operated at KSC since 1995 in support of the NASA's Life Sciences office. The company, which specializes in environmental and ecological research services, also holds smaller contracts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the 45th Space Wing.

With the regional award, which covers companies based in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, Dynamac becomes available for the national award. Doug Britt, senior vice president and project director at KSC, will represent the company at the 33rd Annual Joint Industry/SBA Small Business Procurement Conference and Awards Banquet to

be held June 12-14 in Washington, D.C.

To be considered for an SBA award, a company must be nominated by a government agency and must meet requirements for the number of employees in its primary industry. Entries are assessed by a panel of representatives from government agencies.

Dynamac employs approximately 140 people under its contract at KSC. Britt said the company was named KSC small business of the year in 1996, woman-owned small business of the year each year since and NASA's woman-owned small business of the year the past two years.

In addition to its primary work under the NASA contract, Dynamac has pursued corporate-sponsored research in advanced lift support involving hydroponic nutrients.

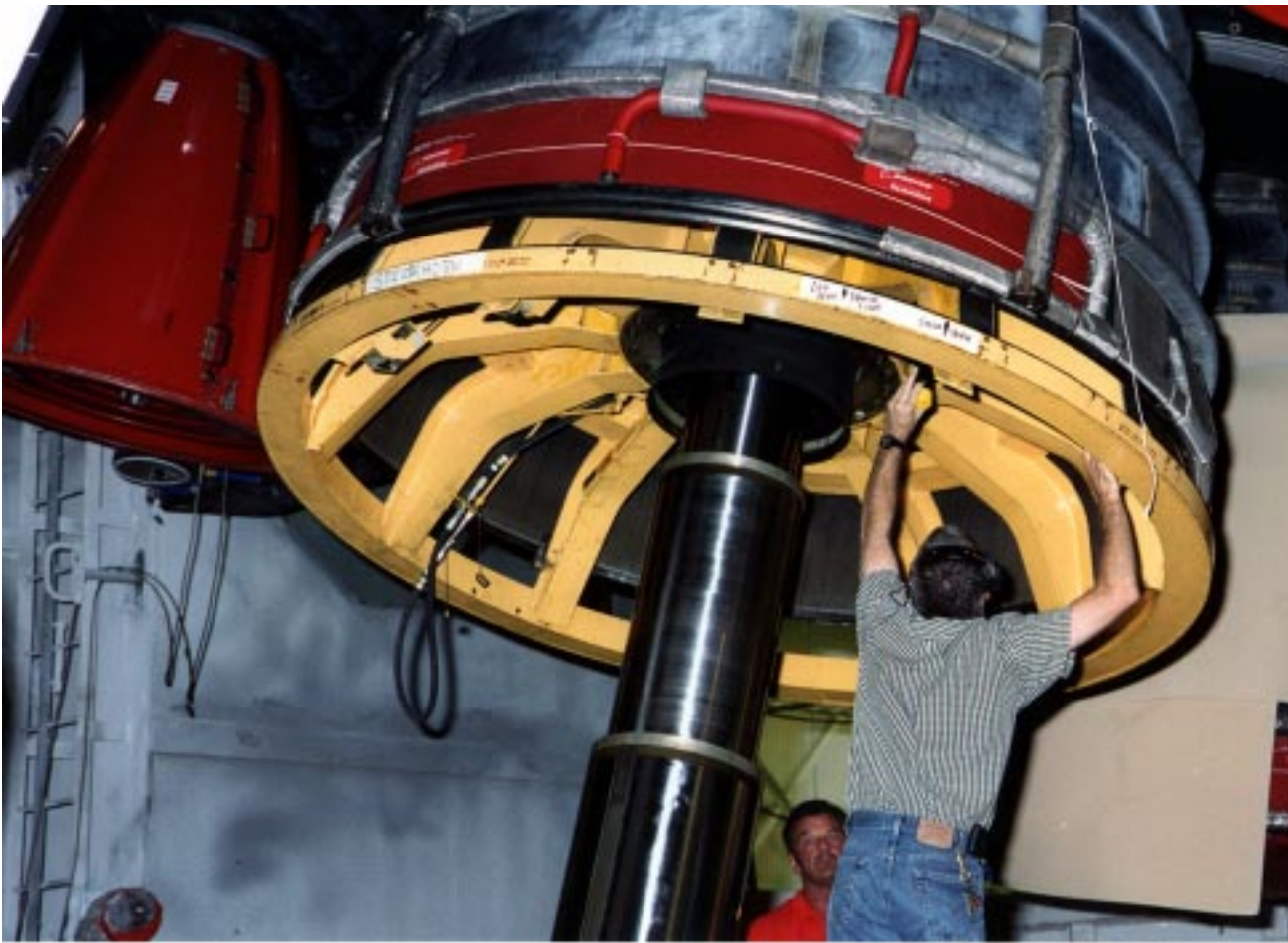
The company is seeking a patent for the process and is negotiating a Space Act Agreement.

## Flexing their arm



Members of the MacDonald Dettwiler Space and Advanced Robotics Limited team celebrate the completion of a recent Multi-Element Integration Test in the Space Station Processing Facility. The team verified the compatibility of the Canadian-built Space Station Remote Manipulator System (SSRMS), or robotic arm, with the Laboratory Module. The SSRMS will be launched on Flight 6A, targeted for 2001. Tom Young, manager of the MacDonald Dettwiler contingent at KSC, offered thanks "to everyone at KSC for their professional and personal support."





Workers in the Vehicle Assembly Building oversee the replacement of Main Engine No. 1 in Space Shuttle Atlantis. Because of concerns about a possibly defective fuel pump tip seals, launch managers decided to replace the engine with one scheduled for installation on Discovery. The main engine nozzle, visible in the photo, is 7.8 feet across and 9.4 feet high. Space Shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to launch April 24 on mission STS-101 to resupply the International Space Station for the arrival of the next pressurized module, the Russian-built Zvezda.

## Getting ready, inside and out

LEFT: Inside the Vehicle Assembly Building, Space Shuttle Atlantis stands ready for rollout to Launch Pad 39A. It sits on top of a Mobile Launcher Platform, a two-story steel structure 25 feet high, which supports and restrains the Shuttle during assembly, transit and while at the pad. The MLP weighs 8.23 million pounds.

BELOW: Atlantis sits on launch Pad 39A waiting for the rotating service structure, at left, to be moved into place for final launch preparations.



# Alternative fuels occupy role at NASA

At a place where the phrase "fuel tank" can refer to a structure that holds 385,000 gallons, the fuel consumption involved in a drive from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the Headquarters Building might seem paltry.

But all those 5-mile treks add up.

One of the ways KSC attempts to curtail the consumption of gasoline in government vehicles is through the use of alternative fuel vehicles. Rod Stilwell, fleet services representative for the General Services Administration (GSA), said that approximately 200 of the 1,400 government vehicles in use at KSC can run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

That number ranks KSC first among NASA centers and gives the Center one of the largest GSA fleets in the nation.

The GSA is the federal agency responsible for providing transportation to other government agencies. NASA leases vehicles from the GSA and must pay for the resulting fuel costs.

Like all government agencies, NASA is subject to the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which sets goals for the percentage of alternative-fuel vehicles in use. Janet Keith, a traffic management specialist for KSC, said the directive requires that 75 percent of all replacement vehicles be capable of using alternative fuels.

That goal, however, is difficult to reach because government agencies do not receive any subsidies for purchasing the vehicles, which cost as much as \$5,000 more than their counterparts with standard engines. Stilwell said a new executive order addressing that problem is expected later this year.

In addition to CNG, ethanol is an alternative fuel used in some vehicles. At present KSC only has CNG pumps at the main fueling site near the



motorpool office. Stilwell said the Center might add ethanol pumps at some future date.

Alternative fuels offer many advantages over traditional gasoline. The CNG vehicles generate significantly less air pollution at the same mileage rate, and the cleaner burn means the vehicles last longer.

Natural gas is considerably cheaper than gasoline or diesel fuel and is not corrosive or toxic. The domestic fuel lessens dependence on foreign oil, and a pipeline to KSC means no delivery tankers are required.

Even for those who don't ride in vanpools or use government vehicles, there are ways to conserve energy and in turn protect the environment. Wayne Thalasinis, an energy resources manager at KSC, said that the difficult part lies in motivating people to do so.

"There's kind of a gap between the energy bills and the people who 'live' in a building," Thalasinis said.

Thalasinis encouraged individual employees to look for obvious signs of unnecessary energy use, such as computers and lights left on all the time or air-conditioner settings that don't seem to serve a purpose.

"If you think you see something that doesn't make sense, contact your facility manager," he said.

to Florida and the KSC Visitor's Complex and will see the early weather satellite images from the 1960s.

The program contrasts those older images with the latest international global satellite weather movies, including destructive hurricanes and tornadic thunderstorms.

Shown in High Definition TV resolution (2,048 by 768 pixels), the program features spectacular images from NASA and NOAA remote sensing missions such as Geostationary Operational Environment Satellite, Landsat7 and Terra. Viewers will see massive dust storms sweeping across Africa, ocean vortexes and currents that reflect climate changes.

# Week puts emphasis on planet

The annual celebration of Earth Day takes place on April 22. In conjunction with the national observance, KSC and the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing will be celebrating Environmental and Energy Awareness Week on April 18-21.

This year's theme is "Clean Environment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The planning committee held a slogan contest, with the winning entry submitted by Terri Bracher of the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing: "Our Mission is Space, Our Responsibility ... the Earth."

More than 40 exhibits, presentations and shows will be on display during the observance. This year's event will focus on the displaying of alternative fueled vehicles, energy conservation, ecosystems, animal exhibits, recyclable products at home and design for the environment.

NASA's Environmental Program Office, General Services Administration and Logistics Office will take part in the exhibits, as will representatives from United Space Alliance, Boeing and Space Gateway Support. A wide variety of vendors are scheduled to participate, including Birds of Prey, the Brevard Zoo, Canaveral National Seashore, the Enchanted Forest, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Solar Energy Center, Florida Power and Light, Florida Trails Association, Save the Manatees, Sea Turtle Preservation Society, Space Coast Area Transit, Ray Thunderhawk (Big Cat Rescue), Keep Brevard Beautiful and more.

The schedule for the displays is as follows:

- April 18: Industrial Area in front of Headquarters Building
- April 19: Vehicle Assembly Building Parking Lot E
- April 20: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Hangar F
- April 21: Patrick Air Force Base, Hangar 750

The exhibits and presentations will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Several drawings for prizes will take place each day, with chances to win a test drive in Toyota's Rav 4 electric car, a bike, a kayak nature tour for two, a T-shirt or even a tree.

You need not be present to win any of the drawings, but you must stop by the exhibits to register.

Watch for additional announcements in the electronic 10 O'Clock News and KSC Countdown. Or consult the following Web site:

<http://atlas.ksc.nasa.gov/epo/eeaw.htm>

## Presentation shows a planet worth preserving

With Earth Day approaching, the KSC Visitor Complex offers a fascinating glimpse of the planet.

A collection of Earth science observations, presented by NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Meteorological Society Earth Science Electronic Theater, will be on display April 19 at the Universe Theater. The one-hour show is free to KSC employees, but only 350 tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Patricia.Ermerins-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

The presentation puts observations and visualizations of the Earth in a historical perspective. Viewers will fly in from outer space



# KSC hosts kids' environmental summit

On April 19, more than 100 middle school students will pour into the Visitor Complex for an exciting, education-packed day devoted solely to the space program's contributions to environmental monitoring and research.

Marguerita Engel, Eco-Trek co-founder and inter-governmental coordinator with St. Johns River Water Management District, felt Kennedy Space Center would be the perfect host for Eco-Trek, a daylong environmental summit for kids. That's because of KSC's inter-connection with the environment.

Eco-Trek, an interactive learning experience for middle school students and their teachers, serves to create a platform for individual and shared knowledge of environmental responsibility, and to increase the students' sensitivities of how Brevard County fits into the global environmental picture.

"KSC's commitment to environmental stewardship, to application of space science, as well as encouragement of science and technology in education during the new millennium make this a 'natural' event for NASA to support," said Eric Dirschka, co-chair of the event and NASA

logistics environmental coordinator.

The morning will include sessions by environmental specialists and NASA researchers featuring topics such as, "The Use of Satellite Technology to Enhance Marine Research," "Wildlife Preservation at the Kennedy Space Center," and the NASA Electronic Theater.

During the afternoon, students from the top four teams will have the opportunity to present their winning projects, or "explorations," on how the space program helps to protect our natural resources.

The day will conclude with an

awards ceremony during which the top four teams will receive plaques for display at their schools. KSC, in addition to the plaques, also has arranged a very special and unique gift for the project winners.

Each member of the teams will receive a flown piece of a Shuttle tile and tire complete with a card describing the specific Shuttle mission.

Participating Brevard County teams include students from Central, Cocoa Beach, DeLaura, Edgewood, Explorer, Hoover, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, McNair, Southwest and Stone middle schools.

## Getting a lift



The IMAGE spacecraft launches aboard a Delta rocket March 25 from NASA's Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. KSC's Expendable Launch Vehicle Program Office managed the launch. IMAGE, an acronym for "Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration," will study the global response of the Earth's magnetosphere to changes in the solar wind.

## Ceremony will celebrate new cryogenics facilities

The Cryogenics Testbed Facility, a new venture in technology and research collaboration, is being unveiled on Friday, April 14 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The facility is jointly managed by NASA and by Dynacs Engineering Company.

In extreme environments of space, temperatures and pressures vary dramatically — from absolute zero to many millions of degrees, from very high vacuum to unimaginable pressure. On Earth, we live in a very comfortable, temperate, and unusual environment. For human beings one of the most important problems is energy management and efficiency.

Fundamentally, cryogenics is about energy and its storage, transfer or conversion. Cryogenic and high vacuum techniques and technology are being used more and more widely all around the world. Kennedy Space Center, to better apply cryogenics to our lives in the fields of medicine, biology, food, computers, industry, rocket propulsion and the spaceports of the future, has created the Cryogenics Testbed.

The overlapping elements of research, development, design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, operations and training are brought together, as appropriate, to meet the product development needs of government and commercial customers.

This unique facility has been envisioned since 1994 by James Fesmire of the Engineering Development Directorate.

"The goal of the facility is to establish the

Cryogenics Testbed at Kennedy Space Center as a main resource for cryogenics and cryogenic engineering," said Fesmire. "It's often said that it's a long way from the laboratory to the marketplace. In a similar way, it's a big jump from the laboratory to outer space. That niche is the testbed. We aim to fill the gap by bringing together under one virtual roof the elements of research, engineering, operations and industry."

KSC's Cryogenic Testbed facilities include the Cryogenic Test Laboratory, Liquid Nitrogen Flow Test Area, Hazardous Test Area and the Launch Equipment Test Facility. There are four technology focus areas, or core lines of work, that are linked to key targets of the long-range strategic initiatives of NASA. They are thermal insulation systems, cryogenic components, propellant process systems and low temperature applications.

"The Cryogenics Testbed Facility illustrates KSC's role as a Spaceport Technology Center," said KSC Center Director Roy Bridges. "This facility will enable KSC to attract future business in high technology and be a leader in the field of cryogenics."

Near-term activities of the Testbed include outfitting the facility, conducting core research and developing key projects for aerospace and industry interests. Potential aerospace areas include exploration initiatives, future vehicles, Space Shuttle upgrades, energy-efficient storage, transfer and use of cryogenics and cryogenic propellants on Earth and in space.

## Up it goes



At Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the Atlas first stage of a Lockheed Martin Atlas II rocket is slowly raised in the launch gantry on pad 36-A. Atlas II is designed to launch payloads into low earth orbit, or geosynchronous orbit. The rocket is the launch vehicle for the satellite GOES-L spacecraft, part of the NOAA National Weather Service system. NASA is responsible for the satellite's development and launch.

# Mars report points route to success

An in-depth review of NASA's Mars exploration program, released March 29, found significant flaws in formulation and execution led to the failures of recent missions, and provides recommendations for future exploration of Mars.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin appointed Thomas Young, a seasoned space-industry executive, to independently assess current and future Mars programs. The Mars Program Independent Assessment Team (MPIAT) started work on Jan. 7.

"I congratulate Tom Young and his team for a superb report," Goldin said. "They have rigorously scrutinized both successful and unsuccessful missions, shining a searchlight into every corner of the incredibly complex endeavor of deep space exploration. He and his team have delivered an extraordinary report and I thank them on behalf of NASA and the American people."

Young said: "Speaking for the team, I would like to express my appreciation for the spirit of cooperation that we enjoyed at NASA Headquarters, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and at Lockheed Martin. The managers, scientists and engineers we spoke with were candid and frank in their

presentations and answers to our questions. Everyone worked toward the same goal: finding ways to make the Mars program successful.

"One of the things we kept in mind during the course of our review is that in the conduct of space missions, you get only one strike, not three. Even if thousands of functions are carried out flawlessly, just one mistake can be catastrophic to a mission. Our review confirmed that mistakes can be prevented by applying experienced oversight, sufficient testing, and independent analysis."

The team's charter was to review and analyze successes and failures of recent missions to determine why some succeeded and some failed; examine the relationship between and among NASA Headquarters, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the California Institute of Technology and industry partners; assess the involvement of scientists; identify lessons learned from successes and failures; review the Mars Surveyor Program to assure lessons learned are utilized; oversee Mars Polar Lander and Deep Space 2 failure reviews; and evaluate the risk management process.

The report concluded the most probable cause of the failure was the generation of spurious signals when the lander legs were deployed during descent. The spurious signals gave a false indication that the spacecraft had landed, causing the spacecraft's descent engines to cut off prematurely.

NASA's Office of Space Science will develop an integrated strategic response to the findings and recommendations of the report. NASA Chief Engineer W. Brian Keegan also will coordinate an integrated Agency response to the recent reviews of NASA practices.

In addition, Dr. Edward Weiler, the associate administrator for Space Science, announced the cancellation of the planned Mars 2001 lander awaiting his approval of a new overall Mars "architecture" plan.

## Lining up

Employees in the Headquarters Building cafeteria wait to sample the offerings during the first day of a new food service contract. The change in food vendors resulted in high turnouts at the Headquarters and Multi-Function Facility cafeterias. Lackmann Culinary Services unveiled its new menus, which include a selection of Italian dishes. Lackmann also made cosmetic improvements to the cafeterias. Weekly menus can be found on the Web at: <http://www.pixellence.com/food/menus.html>





# NASA incubator ready to 'graduate' tenant

Thomas Rainey, director of the Florida/NASA Business Incubation Center (FNBIC), announced FNBIC will officially graduate one of its largest tenants – Command and Control Technologies (CCT) Corporation – on Thursday, April 20, 2000, after a three-year successful stay at the facility.

CCT, which provides high technology computer products and system development services to the commercial and government aerospace market, joined the Incubator as a visionary, three-man company in February 1997. The co-founders had worked together for 15 years at McDonnell Douglas, now The Boeing Company, developing state-of-the-art command and control technology for the international Space Station.

**“The FNBIC is a fantastic launching point for new high-tech businesses.”**

**— KEVIN BROWN,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF CCT**

Seeing the numerous applications in other commercial space operations, the co-founders licensed their technology and launched their own high-tech, small business via the FNBIC.

Now three years later, CCT boasts 20 employees and a 350 percent increase in sales from the launch of the company. It currently has approximately 25 proposals out in the market, which could ulti-

mately mean hiring 15-20 more employees by the end of the year.

“The FNBIC is a fantastic launching point for new high-tech businesses,” said Kevin Brown, vice president of business development. “Now as a graduate, I have become a strong crusader for the program, telling anyone who is thinking of launching a high-tech business to give these guys a try. With the resources that the FNBIC provides, it is absolutely worth it,” he said.

During their first year of operation, CCT relied heavily on the FNBIC’s access to a business network of professionals, including bankers, lawyers and accountants, who provided free consultation on the issues surrounding the launch of a business. In addition, the

Incubator’s rates and established fixtures allowed CCT to save money, focus on generating cash and growing their company.

As CCT entered into its second and third years as an Incubator tenant, they began to notice that being an Incubator tenant also carried some weight in the community.

“Being an Incubator tenant opened many doors for us with local economic development organizations, various contractors and divisions within NASA-KSC, who truly wanted to see us succeed,” Brown said.

“It has been very exciting to watch CCT grow from a small, start-up business into a very successful and viable company,” Rainey said.

## Staring contest winner



A baby owl, possibly a screech owl, stares at a photographer after being found March 30 on the stairs inside Hangar G at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The bird had apparently tried to fly from a nest near the ceiling but couldn't get back to it. Workers called an Audubon rescue center in Maitland, which captured it and will ensure the bird is returned to the wild when it's ready.

## Kids' day at Center rescheduled for summer

There is a change this year in the timing of KSC's participation in children-at-work days. In the past, NASA has observed Take Our Daughters to Work Day on the fourth Thursday in April, followed in June by a Take Our Sons to Work Day.

Because of the need to keep the students in the classroom as part of an effort to increase learning time and raise test scores, children in Brevard County no longer receive excused absences in April.

As a result, KSC will officially observe a Take Our Children to Work Day on the last Friday in July.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Rhodes in the Equal Opportunity Program Office at 867-3382.



# Visitor Complex sets new entrance policy

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex has put in place a new and simplified ticket price structure.

Effective April 8, admission to the Visitor Complex will be \$24 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3 to 11. This all-inclusive admission ticket provides access to the KSC tour, as well as IMAX films and all other Visitor Complex attractions.

Through the end of 2000, a "Limited Admission" ticket option for \$10 also will be offered, providing access to outdoor attractions and selected exhibits.

Individual tickets previously were required for major elements of the Visitor Complex experience, such as the KSC tour, IMAX films and the Robot Scouts and Universe Theater attractions. Guests chose from a menu of options ranging in price from \$7.50 for an IMAX movie to \$26 for a full-day,

Maximum Access Badge.

"In order to remain viable in this extremely competitive tourism marketplace, we must continue to build the great new attractions," said Rick Abramson, president and chief operating officer of Delaware North Parks Services of Spaceport, Inc., NASA's Visitor Complex concessionaire. "This new ticketing strategy provides revenues to do just that, allowing us to tell the NASA story in a ever more compelling manner and ensuring the future of the visitor program here at Kennedy Space Center."

Last month, Delaware North completed a five-year, \$120 million redevelopment of the Visitor Complex that included the additions of the Apollo/Saturn V Center and the Launch Complex 39 Observation Gantry, International Space Station Center, a new ticket plaza and much more.

## Employee policy

Special provisions have been established to accommodate NASA and KSC contractor employees.

Permanently badged employees of KSC, both civil service and contractor, will continue to have admission without charge for those portions of the Visitor Complex covered by the "limited admission" ticket. Passes will be issued at the ticket booth to those with proper credentials. This provision also applies to badged civil service NASA retirees, and NASA employees of other field centers and Headquarters.

In addition, permanently badged employees of KSC who wish to have unlimited access to all attractions, including the tour

and IMAX, on a frequent basis can purchase at the ticket booth an annual pass, good for a full 12 months, for the price of one day's full admission — \$24. This offer, based on a KSC employee's Opportunity For Improvement suggestion, will allow KSC employees an easy and affordable way to accompany visiting friends and relatives on their tours. Other annual pass programs are expected to be established for employees' immediate families and for Brevard County residents.

For employees who do not feel they need an annual pass, a substantially discounted full-admission ticket will be available to employees and their families through the KSC Exchange stores.

# Agenda for picnic: day full of fun

The 2000 KSC All-American Picnic is only one week away!

On Saturday, April 15, KSC employees and their families will gather at KARS Park 1 for the annual picnic that will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale at all NASA Exchange Retail Stores, as well as from selected individuals in most major buildings around KSC and several Cape locations.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 12; children under 3 are not required to have a ticket.

The ticket price includes admission, a meal, drinks, rides, games, contests, entertainment and a lot of fun.

New to this year's picnic is the opportunity to win a NASA jacket autographed by an astronaut. Sign up at Pavilion 2 between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon. You must be present to win.

Many exciting events are planned for the day. A Wildlife Encounter featuring Thunderhawk Big Cat Rescue, a native-American group dedicated to the preservation of the great cats, will have shows at

10:45 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

There will also be a children's petting zoo, and the Brevard County Sheriff's Department is putting on a "K-9" Demonstration with their drug-sniffing dogs.

To celebrate the diversity of our KSC community, there will be a Cultural Cuisine Showcase featuring dishes from various cultures and geographic locations.

For the antique car enthusiasts, the Car Show will include antique, stock, street rods, custom cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

And don't forget the musical entertainment. This year the picnic will include appearances by the Brevard Community Band, a 60-piece orchestra; the group Reflections, whose specialty is Motown, jazz, and R&B; and Max Q, the astronaut rock band.

The Children's Carnival activities include a train ride on the KSC Shuttle Express. Back by popular demand will be the rock climbing, but this year there will be two "mountains" to climb — one for beginners and a second for the more advanced. There will also be pony rides, swings and a carousel.

There will even be a pinata for the kids to break.

The adult meal, catered by Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, will consist of a BBQ pork sandwich, baked beans, cole slaw and a cookie.

The children's menu will include a hamburger or hot dog, bag of potato chips and a cookie.

There's something for everybody at the KSC All-American Picnic! Purchase your tickets now and get



ready for a day of fun.

More information on all the day's events may be found on the Picnic Web Site:

<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/events/2000/picnic/>



John F. Kennedy Space Center

## Spaceport News

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